



Maritime Civil Affairs and Security Training Command



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Mission:

Maritime Civil Affairs and Security Training (MCAST) Command mans, trains, equips and deploys Sailors to facilitate and enable a Navy Component or Joint Force Commander to establish and enhance relations between military forces, governmental and nongovernmental organizations, and the civilian populace. Accomplished in a collaborative manner across the spectrum of operations in the maritime environment, MCAST Command executes military to civilian operations and military to military training, as directed in support of security cooperation and security assistance requirements.

Vision:

MCAST Command will prepare regionally aligned planners, teams, specialists and trainers to be effective, flexible and responsive in support of the Navy Component or Joint Force Commanders' security cooperation plans. Enhancing partner nation capability and capacity is accomplished by deploying fully qualified individuals and teams, trained to support military to civilian operations and military to military training.

1. What is the history of MCAST Command?

- The U.S. Navy created MCAST Command in October 2009 by merging Maritime Civil Affairs Group and Expeditionary Training Command to centralize training and management of its civil-military and maritime security assistance operations.
- Since its inception, MCAST Command has provided operational support to Africa and Southern Partnership Stations, Pacific Partnership, and Operations Unified Response (Haiti) and Continuing Promise (Latin America).

2. Who does MCAST Command work for?

- Headquarter at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek Virginia MCAST Command is a component of Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC), the Navy's single functional command for expeditionary forces.
- MCAST Command works for Joint Task Force, Navy Component and Combatant commanders in support of their operational objectives in a variety of global theaters.

3. How does MCAST Command support larger U.S. National Objectives?

- The U.S. Maritime Strategy entails forward presence, deterrence, sea control, power projection, maritime security, and humanitarian assistance and disaster response. It is the latter two where MCAST Command provides operational support.
- MCAST Command's spectrum of operations includes: support for civil affairs, dislocated civilian operations, non-combatant evacuations, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, maritime security training, and transition and reconstruction.
- MCAST Command elements work directly with Department of Defense, Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development, international donors, nongovernmental organizations and host nations in support of mutual interests.

4. What type of operational support does MCAST Command provide?

- The headquarters element is responsible for manning, training and equipping its Maritime Civil Affairs (MCA) and Security Force Assistance (SFA) detachments and provides operational planning and performance measurement support to field teams. Together MCA and SFA teams directly contribute to global maritime stability and security.
 - MCA teams are the liaison between operational commanders, U.S. Embassy country teams and host nation civil and military entities and local nationals.
 - MCA teams focus on civil-military operations that directly benefit local national populations by providing maritime functional expertise to include: port operations, harbor and channel maintenance and construction, marine and fishery resources, international law (admiralty) and public health.
 - SFA detachments deploy as Mobile Training Teams that provide military to military security force training to host nation armed forces and security personnel to enable maritime security and sovereignty.
 - SFA MTTs training includes: small boat operations and tactics, maritime combat operations, weapons handling, anti-terrorism / force protection, maintenance and construction, and leadership and professional development.

5. What skills does MCAST Command possess in its MCA and SFA detachments?

- Active duty and reserve Sailors from the construction force ratings (BU, CM, CE, EA, EO, SW, UT), as well as boatswain's mates (BM), hospital corpsmen (HM), information technology specialists (IT) and electronic technicians (ET) make up the bulk of the MCA teams.
- Sailors with unique cultural expertise, such as native speakers, are also highly desirable to the command, regardless of their rating.
- On the SFA side, Sailors with security force training and expertise, such as master at arms (MA), boatswain's mates (BM), gunner's mates (GM), operations specialists (OS) and enginemen (EN) staff the MTTs.
- Specific NECs include 0812, 9502, 8425, 2813, 3912, and 3924.
- MCAST also provides explosive ordnance disposal and diving subject matter experts across the NECC force and Department of Defense (DoD) to assist in training delivery.